

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL

www.greensboro-nc.gov/sustainability

Greensboro, NC

Meeting Date: Monday, June 14, 2010

Time: 2:30 pm

Location: The Madison Room at The Learning Center, 1001 Fourth Street

AGENDA, Regular Meeting

1. Approval of minutes from meeting of May 10, 2010 (see attachment)
2. Review SAP feedback from the public engagement process to date
– Dan Curry and Russ Clegg
3. Discuss progress for getting the SAP in front of the City Council:
What have we done? What do we need to do?
– Bob Powell, Joel Landau, and Dan
4. Update on implementation of DOE Energy Efficiency Block Grant – Sue Schwartz
5. Update on implementation of DOE Energy Efficiency Competitive Grant – Dan
6. Report on State Energy Office grant application - Bob
7. Restarting the Green Technologies sub-committee - Bob
8. Update on Green Star program – Valerie Vickers
9. Communications sent to the CSC this past month – Joel Landau (see information below)
10. Items from Co-chairs – update on expired terms
11. Items from Council members
12. Items from the Public
13. Items from Staff
14. Acknowledgment of absences
15. Adjournment

INFORMATION FOR ITEM 9, COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CSC

1) From: Walkerr5@aol.com [<mailto:Walkerr5@aol.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 11:15 AM

To: Davis, Debby

Subject: [Community Sustainability Council - Website Contact] - Rain Water Harvesting

Name: Rick & Janice Walker

Hello! we have been installing underground high tech rain water cisterns through out NC. There are grant dollars for this. We beleive we would be a great fit for the city of Greensboro. www.rain-catchers.net 336-918-0147 Rick

2) -----Original Message-----

From: gallowayreg@aol.com [<mailto:gallowayreg@aol.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 8:29 PM
To: Davis, Debby
Subject: [Community Sustainability Council - Website Contact] - Application to serve on the Council

Name: Ronald E. Galloway

I would like to inquire at possibility and process to serve on this worthy council.

3) -----Original Message-----

From: glothian@triadgoodwill.org [<mailto:glothian@triadgoodwill.org>]
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 1:56 PM
To: Davis, Debby
Subject: [CSC Website Contact/Joel Landau] - Rotary Speaking Engagement

Name: George Lothian

Mr. Landau,

My name is George Lothian and I am a member of the Greensboro Airport Rotary Club. Our club meets at the Cardinal Country Club on Tuesday mornings from 7-8am.

I have the pleasure of finding a speaker for our June 8th meeting and was wondering if you (or another member) from the Community Sustainability Council would like to speak to our club about the council, what your purpose is, what you have accomplished and what your plans are for the future of Greensboro.

Please contact me either via email, glothian@triadgoodwill.org, or phone, 336.403.3375, to let me know if you or anyone in the council would be interested. I can also give you more details at that time.

Thanks for your consideration,

George Lothian
IT Director
Goodwill Industries of Central NC
glothian@triadgoodwill.org
336.403.3375

4) Hi Mr. Poole,

Please see my responses below. I hope they're helpful.
Thanks,

Joel Landau, CSC Co-Chair

-----Original Message-----

From: Davis, Debby [mailto:Debby.Davis@greensboro-nc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 2:51 PM
To: 'Joel and Barbara Landau'; Curry, Dan
Subject: FW: [CSC Website Contact/Joel Landau] - Sustainability Action Plan Presentation

Debby Davis, Web Editor
Public Affairs Department
City of Greensboro
Phone: 373-3640
PO Box 3136
Greensboro, NC 27402-3136
www.greensboro-nc.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: stephenpoole@northstate.net [mailto:stephenpoole@northstate.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 2:18 PM
To: Davis, Debby
Subject: [CSC Website Contact/Joel Landau] - Sustainability Action Plan Presentation

Name:

Hello Mr. Landau,

I attended the recent Open House for Sustainability Action plan, and had a few questions I didn't think to ask at the meeting.

1.) During the meeting, you told me that Greensboro's City Council resolution regarding the U.S Mayors Climate Protection Agreement signed in 2007 specifically excluded Greensboro from attempting to meet Kyoto Treaty Protocols. However, upon downloading and reading the resolution I could not find any such repudiation or specification. Could you please point me to the place in the resolution where it states that Greensboro is excluding itself from that part of the Agreement, or perhaps refer me to a document that does?

On the CSC home page, you can find the document adopted by our City Council by the link in: "Read the resolution adopted by City Council." For your convenience, I've pasted the linked document below.

2. During the PowerPoint presentation, one of the first bullet points was that this is part of a "national initiative." What national initiative does that refer to?

I'm not sure what you're referring to... The aforementioned U.S Mayors Climate Protection Agreement is a national initiative. We have also been allotted money from the US Dept of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, which is part of the federal stimulus plan (ARRA), and this is included in our Action Plan. Other than this, the overall Action Plan is not aligned or part of any national initiative, other than people world-wide who are concerned about improving air quality and conserving finite resources.

3. When did the City of Greensboro end its relationship with ICLEI or ICLEIUSA, and has either organization contributed materials to the Council aside from the use of the greenhouse gas emissions inventory software?

Other than a reference to methodology for the emissions inventory, the CSC has no connection to ICLEI, as we clarified at the presentation. I'm not aware of the City having, now or previously, a relationship but that's just my impression from conversations I've heard. I'd suggest you contact the City Manager's office for confirmation one way or the other.

Thank you in advance for any information you can provide.

Best regards,

Steven Poole

RESOLUTION REGARDING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to

reduce global warming pollution;

WHEREAS, scientific data has documented climatic change and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing the concentrations of global warming pollution;

WHEREAS, state and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emission reduction targets and programs and that this leadership is bipartisan,

coming from Republican and Democratic governors and mayors alike;

WHEREAS, many cities throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality

of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality

improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improving transportation choices, and

economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy

technologies;

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina's General Assembly has passed legislation (S1134) which was signed by the Governor on September 27, 2005 to

establish the legislative commission on global climate change; to direct the commission

to study issues related to global warming, the emerging carbon economy, and whether it

is appropriate and desirable for the state to establish a global warming pollutant reduction

goal; and if the commission determines that the establishment of a goal is appropriate and

desirable, to authorize the commission to develop a recommended goal to study the

effects of global warming and establish desirable policies to reduce greenhouse gasses;

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina's General Assembly has proposed legislature during the 2007 session to promote the development of renewable energy and

energy efficiency in the state through implementation of a renewable energy and energy

efficiency portfolio standard;

WHEREAS, climate change poses a risk to the State of North Carolina and the

citizens of Greensboro;

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that there are actions that local governments can initiate to reduce the generation of greenhouse gasses, reduce the

carbon footprint, and effectively change the environment for our community and citizens;

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro will continually work with State's elective

officials in an effort to promote healthy environments through legislative actions and

policy development;

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that local governments can cause change to the environment through their public service and should develop policies and promote

programs and practices to reduce the generation of greenhouse gasses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

1. That City Council directs staff to complete an emissions' inventory with the

participation and assistance from national and local institutions by May 2008. It is

believed that an emission's inventory study has to be developed in order to establish

appropriate greenhouse gas reduction goals.

2. That the City of Greensboro will continue to develop policies and practices to

exceed the established goals by taking actions in our operations and communities such as:

a. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set targets and create an action plan;

b. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space,
and create compact, walkable urban communities;
c. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction
programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
d. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example,
advocating for
the development of renewable energy resources, recovering landfill methane for
energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy technology;
e. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements,
retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging
employees to
conserve energy and save money;
f. Purchase only Energy Star/energy efficient equipment and appliances for
City use;
g. Practice and promote sustainable building practices, using the U.S.
Green
Building Council's LEED program or a similar system to identify existing
and
emerging sustainable design practices;
h. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles;
reduce the
number of such vehicles; launch an employee education program including
anti-idling
messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
i. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and
wastewater
systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;
j. Increase recycling rates in the City operations and in the community;
k. Maintain healthy urban forests, promote tree planting to increase
shading and
absorb CO₂; and
l. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional
association,
business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.
3. That the City of Greensboro will support the U.S. Mayors Climate
Protection
Agreement as endorsed by the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors
meeting, Chicago,
2005.

5) Mr. Poole,

In the middle of the adopted resolution it states:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF GREENSBORO:

1. That City Council directs staff to complete an emissions' inventory
with the
participation and assistance from national and local institutions by May
2008. It is

believed that an emission's inventory study has to be developed in order to establish appropriate greenhouse gas reduction goals.

I can see where the language can be confusing. However, when Council adopted this they made clear that they wanted an Inventory completed before attempting to set goals. I think it's safe to say no one involved thought Greensboro was adopting the Kyoto Protocol reduction targets. It was, in effect, only a non-binding statement by City Council that sustainability was worth prioritizing.

Truly,

Joel

From: Stephen Poole [mailto:stephenpoole@northstate.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2010 2:16 PM
To: Joel and Barbara Landau
Subject: RE: [CSC Website Contact/Joel Landau] - Sustainability Action Plan Presentation

Hello Mr. Landau,

Thanks for your quick reply. However, I still do not see the type of exclusion or repudiation of the commitment to the Kyoto Protocols that are a part of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Here is what I do read:

3. That the City of Greensboro will support the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as endorsed by the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, Chicago, 2005.

As you probably know, the agreement that Greensboro endorse in this resolution states that mayors and cities would commit to meet or beat Kyoto protocols. [On the Web site detailing the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection](#) agreement that is referenced in the endorsement you sent, we read:

- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban forest restoration projects to public information campaigns;

I find nothing that indicates that Greensboro has withdrawn its support for the Kyoto Protocol targets, even though the current Action Plan does not attempt to meet them. This contradicts what you said at the Open House, where you said that the resolution signed by the City Council addresses the Kyoto Protocols and that Greensboro excluded itself from trying to attain them. But perhaps I'm just missing it in the text.

Thanks again for the quick response,

Steven Poole

6) -----Original Message-----

From: mikejbaron@triad.rr.com [mailto:mikejbaron@triad.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 06, 2010 6:58 AM
To: Davis, Debby
Subject: [CSC Website Contact/Joel Landau] - Water Conservation

Name: Mike J Baron

The City of Greensboro ended its water conservation program years ago and without a word of protest from the public, environmentalists or the media. Why has the Sustainability Committee apparently remained silent about

Greensboro closing down water conservation? Have you seen stories about water conservation ending on www.damscam.blogspot.com? If your committee does what it is commissioned to do, it should begin a "Water Conservation truth and reconciliation committee!" Yet one of your current members did nothing to prevent its termination! I was fired as WCM because water conservation was working in Greensboroand the dam scammers had to stop it. How can your committee not address such a scam? Please tell me. Sincerely, Mike J Baron, Greensboro's only water conservation manager, 1994 to 1999, fired and never replaced.

Dear Mike,

Being appointed to a volunteer Board does not make a person automatically omniscient about everything that has happened in Greensboro city govt. I can't speak for anyone else on the CSC, but I'm not familiar with the program you refer to. It predates my involvement in city affairs by several years. I'd like to know more about it, so I'd appreciate if you could tell me more about the program. Plus any suggestions you might have for current water conservation measures.

Thanks,

Joel Landau, Co-Chair, Community Sustainability Council